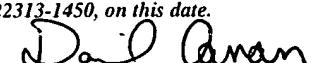


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application) *I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United
Applicant: Taniguchi et al.) States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to:
Serial No.) Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O.
Filed: March 22, 2004) Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.
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Art Unit:)*

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of foreign patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

March 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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Customer Number 24978

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By: 
Patrick G. Burns
Registration No. 29,367

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				Attorney Docket No.: 0828.70119		Serial No.:	
				Applicant: Taniguchi et al.			
				Filing Date: March 22, 2004		Group:	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate	
	5,877,832	March 2, 1999	Shimada				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	09-304793	Nov. 28, 1997	Japan			Abs.	
	2002-169166	June 14, 2002	Japan			Abs.	
	2002-341332	Nov. 27, 2002	Japan			Abs.	
	10-096955	April 14, 1998	Japan			Abs.	
	11-052419	Feb. 26, 1999	Japan			Abs.	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
Examiner			Date Considered				
*Examiner:		Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.					